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United States Patent [19]

Celi, Jr.

[11] **Patent Number:** **5,261,079**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 9, 1993****[54] INTERFACE FOR KEYBOARD EMULATION PROVIDED BY AN OPERATING SYSTEM****[75] Inventor:** Joseph Celi, Jr., Boynton Beach, Fla.**[73] Assignee:** International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, N.Y.**[21] Appl. No.:** 629,505**[22] Filed:** Dec. 18, 1990**[51] Int. Cl.⁵** G06F 3/02**[52] U.S. Cl.** 395/500; 364/DIG. 2; 364/927.81; 364/928**[58] Field of Search** 364/DIG. 1 MS File, 364/DIG. 2 MS File; 395/500, 700, 800**[56] References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bruce D. Jobse; Anibal Jose Cortina**[57] ABSTRACT**

A computer system includes a keyboard which includes cooperatively operating therewith a keyboard device driver to enable the keyboard to interface with an operating system and applications program running within the computer system. Further types of input devices, such as handprint terminals, light pens, etc., can be employed in place of a keyboard to interact with the operating system and application programs running within the computer system. A keyboard device driver emulator is provided which transforms input data from the alternate input device so as to have said data appear to be keyboard generated data which is then transmitted to the operating system and applications running within the computer system. The invention also relates to a method of operating a computer system with an input device which is not a keyboard, but operating the system as if the input device were a keyboard by transforming the data from the input device to make it appear to be keyboard generated data.

Primary Examiner—Robert B. Harrell**14 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**